

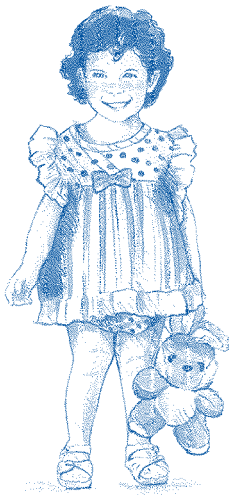


Child Molesters – Monsters In Our Neighborhoods

"The sexual abuse of a child is a most serious crime and an act repugnant to the moral instincts of a decent people."
– Justice Kennedy

The Typology

When it comes to the sexual abuse of children, it's "Criminal Sexual Conduct," plain and simple. The American Psychiatric Association has made the definitive statement that: "An adult who engages in sexual activity with a child is performing a **criminal** and **immoral** act which never can be considered normal or socially acceptable behavior." And as in any crime, police know the most important thing in catching and prosecuting a child predator is collecting all the evidence possible related to the commission of the offense.



Fortunately, science is assisting police in the tracking and apprehension of such criminals. The FBI Behavioral Science Unit has developed a manual called, "Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis." It contains the most common offender profiles and typologies, based on real police investigations. Note that these profiles are not diagnostic. They should be used by law enforcement only to recognize patterns and find leads.



Situational Child Sex Offenders

In trying to develop a criminal profile that may lead you to evidence, the FBI Behavioral Science Unit reminds police that there are many types of child molesters with many personality styles and predispositions – so don't overlook any possibilities. However, generally speaking, most child sex offenders are "men," and most are **Situational offenders**, that is, they are sexual predators of opportunity rather than preference. They may seek their victims in a daycare center and then move on to a nursing home. There are four types of Situational offenders: Regressed, Morally Indiscriminate, Sexually Indiscriminate, and Inadequate.

If they are **Regressed**, they victimize children as a sexual substitute. Due to

their low self-esteem and poor coping skills, they have trouble developing normal relations with an adult, and may appear to acquaintances as timid, childlike, or odd. Availability is the main criterion, which is why many of these offenders molest their own children. His principal method of operation is coercion. He may or may not collect pornography. If he does have child pornography, it is usually homemade photographs or videos – the best kind of evidence. This may be the most prevalent type of child molester.

Morally Indiscriminate offenders are bullies. They use and abuse anyone they can. He emotionally abuses his wife, friends, and coworkers. He is an impulsive person who lacks a conscience. He lies, cheats, and steals whenever he thinks he can get away with it. He molests children for

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a simple reason: "Why not?" If he has the urge, and a child is available, he takes advantage of the situation. A stranger or relative, it makes no difference to him. He uses force, lures, and manipulation to obtain his victims. He frequently collects sadomasochistic pornography. If he has child pornography, it is usually of pubescent children, who are especially at risk of being his victims.

The **Sexual Indiscriminate** offender is the "try-sexual," the free love and sex type. His basic motivation is sexual experimentation, and he has no sexual mores or norms. Such an individual may prey on his own children, or may even provide his children to other adults as part of group sex, spouse swapping activity, or as part of some bizarre ritual. This subject is likely to have multiple victims, and his pornography collection will be wide and varied.

The **Inadequate** offender includes all those who suffer from psychosis, personality disorders, mental retardation, and senility. In your neighborhood, he might be the odd guy who still lives with his parents, the misfit with no friends, or the eccentric who talks to himself. This offender seems to become sexually involved with children out of insecurity or curiosity. In some cases the offender is attracted to an adult, but will use a child-relative as a substitute, i.e., the offender might want the mother, but will prey on the daughter. Some Inadequate offenders find it difficult to express anger and hostility, and they can turn into killers. Because of their mental or emotional problems, some might take out their frustration in cruel sexual torture. He preys on the helpless. If he collects pornography, it will most likely be of adults.

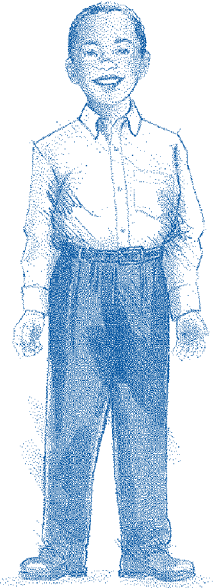
Preferential Child Sex Offenders

A smaller but more dangerous group of predators are called **Preferential Child Sex Offenders**, which would be most synonymous with the term "pedophile." They have a definite sexual preference for children and have the potential to victimize a large number. Most prefer boys, some prefer girls, others prefer both sexes.

They can possess a wide variety of character traits, but engage in highly predictable sexual behavior. Their sexual fantasies and erotic imagery focus on children, and they will perform ritualistic behavior even when it is counterproductive to getting away with the criminal activity. They will go to great length to obtain photos, films, or pornographic publications that focus on sex with children. There are three categories of Preferential Child Sex Offenders: Seduction, Introverted, and Sadistic.

The **Seduction** pattern is characterized by offenders who court their intended victim with attention, affection, and gifts. They seduce children over a period of time by gradually lowering their sexual inhibitions. Frequently his victims arrive at the point where they are willing to trade sex for attention, affection, and other benefits they receive from the offender. Many of these offenders develop a string of relationships where they can prey on multiple victims at the same school, church, scout troop, or neighborhood. This master manipulator knows how to listen and talk to children. They then use violence and threats to intimidate the victim and keep them from disclosing the relationship.

In the recent controversy involving priests, families of victims have said that they too were seduced in a way – because the predator/priest would win their trust through favors and friendship in order to gain access to the children. As wolves in sheep's clothing, they purposely picked on "dysfunctional families" with single mothers who needed help, or on happily married parents whose vulnerability was simply their unwavering devotion and trust in the church. The predator/priest might become a frequent dinner guest, or a golf partner of the father.



The Seducer usually gets caught when the child/victim starts to grow up and he needs to terminate the relationship with them. But this must be done without disclosure of the "secret." The Seducer tries to convince the victim that it was their fault, and the victim often carries the secret into adulthood inappropriately attached to feelings of guilt.

The **Introverted** pattern of behavior is characterized by an offender who has a sexual preference for children, but lacks the charm necessary to seduce them. He fits the old stereotype of the child molester who hangs around playgrounds and other areas where children congregate, waiting for an opportunity to strike. He may expose himself, or force brief sexual encounters. He may make obscene phone calls to children, or utilize the services of a child prostitute. Unable to figure out any other way to gain access to a child, he might even marry and have his own children, very likely molesting them from the time they are infants.

The **Sadistic** pattern of behavior is characterized by an offender who has a sexual preference for children but who, in order to be aroused or gratified, must inflict pain or suffering on the child victim. They typically use lures or force to gain access to their victims, and are the most likely of the Preferential predator patterns to abduct and even murder their victims. There have been some cases where the Seducer has become a Sadistic molester. It is fortunate that Sadistic molesters do not appear to be large in number.

The Horror

Almost any type of child molester is capable of violence or even murder to avoid identification. However, most of the sexually motivated child murderers profiled by the FBI Behavioral Science Unit have involved the Morally Indiscriminate and Inadequate patterns of behavior. Low social competence seems to be the most significant risk factor in why a child molester might abduct their victims.

Some child sex offenders undress and look at children, others commit more direct physical sex acts. All

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these activities are harmful to the child, states the American Psychiatric Association. "There is no doubt that sexual abuse of children and adolescents leads to severe negative consequences, and is a risk factor for many classes of psychiatric disorders," said APA President John S. McIntyre, M.D. Not the least of which is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. "Children and adolescents who have been abused cope with the trauma by using a variety of psychological mechanisms. In some instances, these coping mechanisms result in a lack of conscious awareness of the abuse for varying periods of time. Conscious thoughts and feelings stemming from the abuse may emerge at a later date."

When caught, child sex offenders often try to explain their crimes with excuses or rationalizations that their acts have "educational value" for the child, that the child feels "sexual pleasure" from the activities, or that the child was "sexually provocative." But the American Psychiatric Association confirms the legal presumption that children are incapable of offering informed consent to sex with an adult. Furthermore, since sex acts harm children, the APA condemns publications and organizations that seek to promote or normalize sex between adults and children.

Despite some statements made by the Catholic Church denying that child molesters are attracted to the priesthood, research by the American Psychiatric Association shows that "pedophiles" (Preferential Child Sex Offenders) will select jobs, hobbies, or charity work as a covert means to bring themselves into contact with children. So any organization that maintains a special trust with children (including police) must take steps to carefully screen applicants, and at the minimum should conduct thorough background and criminal history investigations, with psychological exams becoming increasingly common.

Investigators know that many of these monsters seem like nice guys. They come across as very pleasant. While some molesters fit the stereotype of a wild-eyed, dirty and unkempt Charles Manson-type, other sexual predators are intelligent enough to know they

are able to get more victims by being courteous, helpful and friendly.

A recent NBC News "Meet The Press" episode interviewed Father Donald Cozzens, former Vicar of Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland, and author of "The Changing Face of the Priesthood." Father Cozzens states in his book: "During my years as vicar ... I investigated dozens of reports of clergy sexual misconduct, spending a good part of many working days arranging for assessment and treatment for accused priests... Without wanting to diminish the harm they had done, there seemed to be something amiss at the core of their personalities. For I sensed little guilt for their seductions; the only regret I could identify was associated with being caught. For the most part, the men I worked with were more concerned about themselves and their futures than for their victims...I came to regard them as focused sociopaths—little or no moral sense, no feelings of guilt and remorse for what they had done, at least in this area of their lives...I don't remember one priest acknowledging any kind of moral torment for the behaviors that got him in trouble. The absence of remorse and concern for their victims continues to trouble me."

Conclusion

Unlike other mental illnesses, the APA has found that even after intensive treatment, pedophilia is usually chronic and lifelong in most patients. In fact, the APA filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court stating that

vigorous prosecution and maximum sentencing be used against those who commit sexual crimes (particularly against children). Furthermore, mental illness is NO defense, and mental hospitals should NOT be used as repositories for such criminals.

The APA states that it is difficult to give an estimate on the number of individuals with pedophilia that are in the general population because individuals with the disorder rarely seek psychiatric help. However, the APA states that the large commercial market in child pornography suggests that the number of individuals with the disorder is likely to be higher than the limited arrest and medical data indicates.

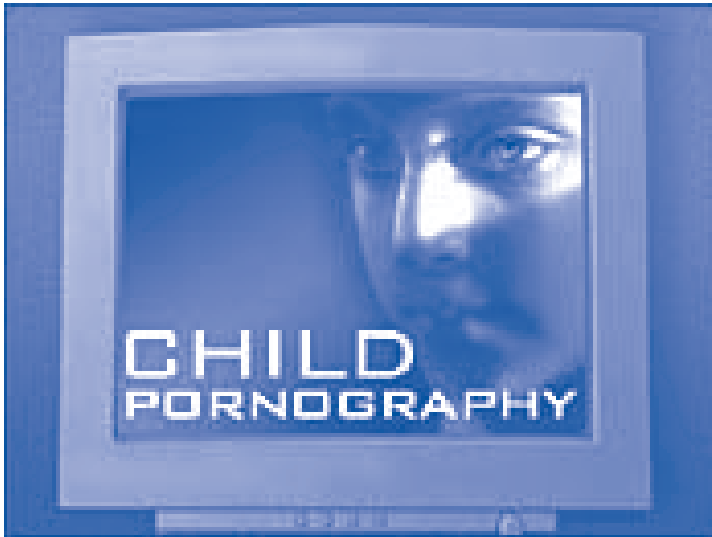
If there is any hope in preventing or curing sexual predators, it will probably be the result of identifying and treating adolescents who are developing toward this deviant behavior. While there is still a lot of research to be done, the Australian Institute of Criminology has shown that "patterns of sexual offending often begin in adolescence and that many offenders show a progression to more serious sexual assaults as adults...research, in addition to clinical practice, has identified that sexual exploitative and aggressive behaviors are also occurring in younger, pre-pubescent children...any evidence of early inappropriate, sexualism and/or sexually aggressive behavior must be addressed as early as possible to provide future protection."



Regarding the Prosecution of Sex Offenders

In the California murder trial of Danielle Van Dam, the judge allowed in "some" evidence showing the suspect possessed child pornography. The judge agreed with prosecutors that child pornography helps establish a "motive" in the case, since police believe the suspect has a sexual fixation with young girls and that he molested Danielle before killing her. Michigan courts have made similar rulings. While character evidence is normally not admissible, Michigan Rules of Evidence 404(b) creates an exception where the evidence is used to show "proof of motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, scheme, plan, or system in doing an act..." Note, under MRE 403, judges often take the discretion to "balance" how much character evidence is admitted "if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice..."

Obscene “Virtual” Child Pornography Is Still Illegal



On April 16, the Supreme Court struck down a provision in a federal law banning computer-generated images of minors engaging in sex. The Child Pornography Prevention Act, enacted in 1996, bans child pornography on the Internet. Child-porn and pedophilia are linked; 36% of those arrested for child pornography “already” have criminal histories of child molestation. However, the court found that “Virtual” pornography – described by the court as “sexually explicit images that appear to depict minors, but were produced without using any real children” – “creates no victims by its production,” and so is not covered by the Act.

This decision leaves open the prosecution of pornographers who use pictures of real children and, with computer-imaging techniques, make it appear that they were engaging in sex. When innocent pictures or images of a child are “virtually” or digitally transformed into pornographic material, and distributed across the internet, the internet provides a source for repeated, long-term victimization of the child, even if it is without the victim’s knowledge.

Also, police specializing in computer crimes should understand that this ruling does not change the part of the law that bans obscenity – including “virtual” child pornogra-

phy. This means that possession or distribution of “virtual” child pornography can still be prosecuted as a crime “IF” a judge and jury find it shocking to “contemporary community standards.”

Besides the Federal Child Pornography Prevention Act, Michigan has

the applicable law of “Possession or Dissemination of Obscene Materials,” M.C.L.A. 752.365. “A person is guilty of obscenity when, knowing the content and character of the material, the person disseminates, or possesses with intent to disseminate, any obscene material.” The first offense is a 1 year misdemeanor. A second or subsequent offense is a felony, with imprisonment of not more than 2 years.

When police utilize Michigan’s “Possession or Dissemination of Obscene Materials” law, regarding virtual child

pornography, or any pornography, keep in mind the standards necessary for “obscenity:”

- (a) The average individual, applying contemporary community standards, would find the material, taken as a whole, is prurient – shameful or morbid, immoral and lascivious, in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- (b) The reasonable person would find the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value;
- (c) The material depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way.

For detailed definitions, see M.C.L.A. 752.362. This law has been upheld as constitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court.

Whereas previously, “virtual” child pornography was illegal on its face, police will now need to meet a slightly higher standard of proof, showing that the “virtual” pornographic image is shameful and offensive to contemporary community standards. As always, consult with your local prosecutor for assistance.

Other Michigan Legislation Related to Internet/Sex Crimes

- MCL 750.145a – A person who accosts, entices, or solicits a child less than 16 years of age, regardless of whether the person knows the individual is a child...with the intent to induce or force that child or individual to commit an immoral act...is guilty of a felony. (Allows police to conduct “sting” operations on the internet.)
- MCL 762.2 – A person may be prosecuted for a criminal offense he or she commits while he or she is physically located...outside this state...if the criminal offense produces consequences that have a materially harmful impact upon the system of government or the community welfare of this state, or results in persons within this state being defrauded or otherwise harmed. (Allows for prosecution of offenders perpetrating crimes within Michigan even if they are physically located outside of the state, for such crimes as fraud, as well as internet transmission of child pornography, or solicitation of a minor, etc.)

The Coming EX-CON WAVE!



The nation's criminal justice community helped solve the crime-

wave of the 70s and 80s with tough enforcement and strict sentencing in the 90s. But the increase in incarceration has been going on for enough years now that the number of prisoners being released back into society is surging across the country. In California, for instance, more prisoners are now being released than were in the state's entire prison system 20 years ago. Nationally, about half a million former inmates are reentering society each year.

To put the fear of God into ex-con sex offenders, the Michigan State Department of Corrections is now using polygraph exams. Unlike drug tests, which are conducted on a random basis with no warning, the polygraphs are scheduled in advance. The parolees are asked questions supplied by a parole officer related to their activities outside of prison to ensure they are complying with restriction and are obeying the law. "We look for precursors or triggers that could result in repeat offenses," explained Tom Combs, a Corrections Department special programs manager.

The tests can be used to open investigations into a parolee's activities. Offenders are asked questions about everything from pornography

to online habits, Combs said. For example, an offender in Detroit who assaulted children at a bike repair shop he ran was asked under polygraph if he still fixes bikes for children. One Flint ex-con who initially refused to take a polygraph reconsidered when officials threatened to send him back to prison if he didn't consent. He eventually passed the test. Taking the exam is a parole requirement, and "The hammer of re-incarceration is a good tool to

DNA fingerprinting has become one of the most important tools in criminal investigations and forensic science. Police need to take very seriously their duty in collecting DNA samples.



have," said Matt Davis, a Corrections Department spokesman.

Developments in technology are also helping hold ex-cons accountable for their post prison activities. The 2001 DNA Profiling Act now requires that DNA be collected from ALL convicted felons, and certain sexually related misdemeanor offenses. Much harder to wipe up than a fingerprint, if the ex-con commits another offense their DNA is on record to match them to the crime. The importance of DNA is highlighted in the recent murder cases of both Danielle Van Dam and Samantha Runnion – the suspect pedophiles in each case were linked by DNA. So while it might be a pain to collect DNA samples, cops need to realize that it's worth the effort. DNA is one of the greatest advancement in police forensics – ever!

Another improvement has been the Michigan Sex-Offender Registration law, which became effective in October 1995. It forces released sex offenders to register with local law enforcement on their whereabouts for a minimum of 25 years and up to the rest of their lives. The public display of the registry is currently suspended in Michigan, pending

court review, but it is still available to law enforcement.

In the coming ex-con wave, keeping crime down will require creative and energetic follow-up programs by police, parole and probation. If you have any ideas, call the Michigan State Police Prevention Services Section, at 517-333-4006.

New Video!



In a 30-second Nike ad, Lance Armstrong, who overcame cancer to win the Tour de France four times, stresses hard work and dedication:

"Everybody wants to know what I am on.

What am I on? I'm on my bike... six hours a day.

'What are you on?'"

The Law Enforcement Resource Center at the Michigan State Police Training Academy has a new training video featuring Lance Armstrong, called "Who Says We Can't Do It" (video # V0922.). Lance gives an honest account of the physical and psychological hardships he's had to endure, and how overcoming adversity has improved his life. The four key learning points made are: Set Goals, Strategy, Teamwork, and Leadership. This video is ideal for any group, from high school programs to police in-service training. Any Michigan police department can check it out by calling Sandra Luther at the LERC, 517-322-5624.

Court Rulings Related to High Risk Convicted Criminals

Cutshall v. Sundquist (193 F.3d 466, 1999), established that extended monitoring of released convicts is not an unconstitutional infringement on their rights. The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Kansas v. Crane (122 S. Ct. 867, 2002) held that habitual high-risk offenders can be placed in extended incarceration.

Legalizing A Crime Doesn't Make The Problem Go Away

"You can only control it if you make a law allowing it," is the dangerous rationalization often heard today. The argument, "If you can't eliminate the problem, legalize and regulate it," is being used to advocate the legalization of all sorts of obscenity,



including: child pornography, drugs, prostitution, euthanasia, the selling of body organs for transplant, cloning, and just about every other form of dehumanization, greed, impulsiveness, addiction, or vice you can think of.

As recently as July 30, John Stossel used this argument to advocate the legalization of illicit drugs. In an ABC News special report, Stossel declared "Now that we're at war against terrorism, can we also afford to fight a drug war against millions of our own people? Is it wise to fight on two fronts?... What we're doing now has failed... Why not sell drugs like we do alcohol?" Even after admitting that all illicit drugs are addictive and destructive (far worse than alcohol, which is harmless in moderation), Stossel said they should be legalized anyway, because the "war on drugs" hasn't decreased drug abuse. Then Stossel tried to use the Netherlands as an example of a country that solved its drug problems by legalizing marijuana, but he neglected to reveal how legalizing marijuana has created a permissive drug culture for Dutch youth.

There are huge holes in these arguments to "legalize what you can't eliminate," and police need to counter such arguments because they are often put on the spot to do so (which is exactly what Stossel did to an unsuspecting officer). John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, has explained that any drug legalization would only "shift" crime in a

far worse direction. Stossel failed to mention that legalization of marijuana



in the Netherlands has created an underclass of habitual users. Worse yet, studies have shown that marijuana can be a gateway to harder drugs, and now Holland has become the primary producer and user of ecstasy and other dangerous club drugs known to cause brain damage. Stossel also failed to mention that studies have shown a strong link between drug use and child abuse and neglect.

But even if you throw out all the scientific evidence, it is ridiculous to argue that a known danger should be legitimized simply because society cannot totally "control it" or eliminate it. The fact is, very few crimes are totally preventable. Since humankind's earliest existence, as emphasized in the biblical story of Cain and Abel, people have been committing crimes against natural laws. But this doesn't mean we should give up the struggle to prevent things we know to be wrong.

All religions teach that sin and crime are part of human nature. It comes with having the freewill to choose between good and evil. History also

teaches there are perils that result from legitimizing immoral acts. It can create a "slippery slope" leading to the erosion of other standards. Moreover, once you legitimize something, and later regret it, it will be exceedingly difficult to re-create a prohibition against the evil it entails. Slavery in the Americas, for instance, was rationalized and legitimized by the settling Europeans for financial reasons, and it took a civil war and millions of deaths to re-moralize our culture.

John Stossel said that the war on drugs is like the war in Vietnam, and we should give up fighting a war we can't win. But in the history of crime and social problems, we have only been fighting drugs for a very short time, and the fact is we have been making headway. Moreover, police have always understood that there is no finality in fighting any crime or deviancy – it is ongoing battle against the worse parts of human nature. All police can do is buy time for human progress, no matter how long it takes.

The point is, in the public debate over various crimes, it would be better to argue over the effectiveness of different enforcement techniques rather than give up on humanity and surrender to the problem. Morality and public policy should set an ideal to be striven for, not be lowered to a mediocre level that overlooks and accepts all manner of wrongdoing just to save effort. And while the battle is relentlessness, there is no reason to give up hope, if we anchor ourselves to what we know to be right. Grand Rapids Police Chief Harry Dolan put it this way: "Many social problems cannot be totally eliminated, so we must accept their 'ongoing reduction' as a viable alternative."



Many social problems cannot be totally eliminated, so we must accept their "ongoing reduction" as a viable alternative.

– Chief Harry Dolan, Grand Rapids Police Department

Go to www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov for hopeful treatments and enforcement methods against illicit drugs.

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